Designing Landscapes for Life!

Carolina Wren

Oak Hairstreak
Typical landscape attracts what kind of wildlife?
Conversion and Development

[Image of agricultural fields and a diagram indicating edge habitat, interior habitat, and roads.

[Image of a parking lot with a vehicle parked nearby.]
Challenge: Invasive Exotics

A Must Read: Bringing Nature Home by Douglas Tallamy
Challenge: Water
Wintering Whooping Cranes at Granger Lake, 2012
Photo by Dr. Birdie (Byron Stone)
We Can
Make a Difference for Wildlife

- Recipe for Success
  - Food – native plants
  - Water
  - Shelter
  - Places to raise young
  - Space
What is a Native Plant?

- Population of plants (trees, shrubs, grasses or any other plant) in a geographic area that exist there without direct or indirect human introduction.

- Indigenous plants that evolved in an ecosystem naturally, without human introduction.

- Ask for natives by their scientific name.
Think Web of Life

Argiope sp.

Black-chinned on nest
Wildscape
Reduce Lawn
Create Different Levels
Add Variety

Purple coneflower
Provide vertical niches

**Canopy** – owls, robins, warblers, tanagers

**Midstory** – jays, chickadees, titmice

**Understory** – cardinals, wrens, mockingbirds, doves

**Ground level** – sparrows, cardinals, doves, wrens

Texas Parks and Wildlife
Ground Layer

Grasses: Try clump forms
- Big Muhly
- Yellow Indian Grass
- Pine Muhly
- Gulf Coast Muhly
Mexican Feather Grass
Dalea greggii
Zexmenia (*Wedelia texana*)

- Sun to part shade
- Bloom Time: May –Nov.
- Very drought tolerant
- Attracts: Butterflies
- Larval Host: Bordered Patch
- Nectar Source
- Deer Resistant: Moderate
Creek Sedge (Carex blanda)

Create a rain garden.
Blue Mistflower
Several different species

Chromolaena odorata
Shrub Layer as Understory

American Beautyberry
White Mistflower
Ageratina havanensis
Small Trees/Large Shrubs

- Yaupon
- Possumhaw
- Wax myrtle
Mid-Story Layer

Native Plant Information Network
## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

### Texas-Central Recommended

Commercially available native plant species suitable for planned landscapes in Central Texas. Visit our Suppliers Directory to locate businesses that sell native plants or seeds or provide professional landscape or consulting services in this state. Visit the Organizations Directory to locate native plant societies, conservation groups, governmental agencies, botanical gardens, arboretum, and other plant-related organizations in this state.

Printer Friendly: [Species List](#) | [List with Images](#) | [List with QR Tags to Mobile](#)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCIENTIFIC NAME</th>
<th>COMMON NAME(S)</th>
<th>IMAGE GALLERY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ageratina havanensis</td>
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<td>Big bluestem</td>
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<td>Turkeyfoot</td>
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Mid-Story Layer

- Ashe juniper!
- Yes, it’s native
- Tremendous wildlife value
Canopy Layer
Provide Food Throughout the Seasons

Carolina Buckthorn

Inland Sea Oats
Native plants produce insects I rely on!
Garden for caterpillars!
Coral Honeysuckle

- Roots in the shade
- Sleeps, creeps and leaps taking 3 years to get established
- Nectar and berries
- Hummingbirds and mockingbirds
- Snowberry Clearwing
Berries for Energy

Hackberry

Native Lantana

Coralberry

Pigeonberry
Keep foods pure - pesticides kill!
Impact of Pesticides/Fertilizers?
Caterpillar Friendly Gardening

- Plant host plants in various spots in garden to improve chances of survival
- Minimize disturbance of soil and mulch
- Some caterpillars spend time hiding on ground next to host plant during the day and feed only at night.
- Others use soil around base of host plant when pupating.
- Leave leaf litter and plant stems over winter
Shelter/escape cover

Examples:
- Prickly natives
- Brush piles
- Toad abodes
Shelter, wildlife corridor
Shelter: Unmortared Rock
Shelter: lower branches and leaf litter
Shelter: Cavities

Chimney Swift Tower
Snags are homes
Shelter: Nestbox

- No perch
- Can be opened to clean
- Drainage holes
- Thick walls - at least 3/4 inch
- Ventilation holes
- Made from untreated wood
- Easy to access for monitoring and cleaning
- Morning sun and afternoon shade

Lynn Hill
Provide Shallow Water
Out of Harm’s Way
Bird Raft
Moving Water
Moving Water

WATER WIGGLER

Moving Water Attracts Birds

Helps prevent the spread of West Nile virus by eliminating stagnant water in bird baths.
Rain Garden
Create a Puddling Station
Lesser Goldfinch Love Niger
Millet, Sunflower Seeds, Seed Cakes and Suet
Be a responsible habitat host

- Keep feeders clean
- Keep feeders 10-12 feet away from dense shrubbery
- Cats indoors
NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat™ Requirements

- Food Sources
- Water Source
- Cover
- Places To Raise Young
- Practice at least (2) Sustainable Gardening Practices
Gardening for Wildlife is Fun

- Less mowing
- Reduced raking of leaves
- Less deadheading
- Less noise
- Less watering

- More birds
- More flutterbys
- More time to enjoy
If we build it they will come.

Green Violetear
Learn More About Birds

Inspiring Conservation
Through Birding

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